

Louis J. Schwarz

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Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 11-42 – Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization
WC Docket No. 03-109 – Lifeline and Link Up
CC Docket No. 96-45 – Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
WC Docket No. 12-23 – Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training

NOTICE OF COMMENT

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In all communications via those dockets, I want to express the inappropriate term, impaired or impairment.

Please be advised that the term, “hearing impaired” is unacceptable. Here is the explanation:

The term "Hearing Impaired" is a technically accurate term much preferred by hearing people, largely because they view it as politically correct. In the mainstream society, to boldly state one's disability (e.g., deaf, blind, etc.) is somewhat rude and impolite. To their way of thinking, it is far better to soften the harsh reality by using the word "impaired" along with "visual", "hearing", and so on. “Hearing-impaired” is a well-meaning word that is much-resented by deaf and hard of hearing people. This term was popular in the 70s and 80s, however, now is used mostly by doctors, audiologists and other people who are mainly interested in our ears "not working."

While it's true that their hearing is not perfect, that doesn't make them impaired as people. Most would prefer to be called Deaf, Hard of Hearing or deaf when the need arises to refer to their hearing status, but not as a primary way to identify them as people (where their hearing status is not significant).

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
May 29, 2012
Page 2

We are deaf, and not people with impairments (obstacles) in life!

Hope that you and your agency respect by refusing to use the outdated and offensive term. Hearing loss is more acceptable for everyone who is not just deaf.

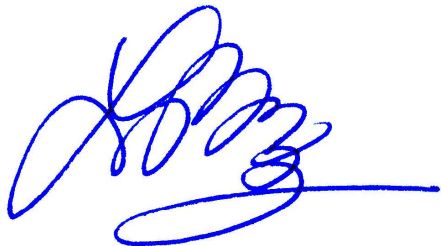
Sources:

<http://www.eastersealcrossroads.org/blog/2011/september/deaf-vs-hearing-impaired>

<http://www.deafau.org.au/info/terminology.php>

<http://nad.org/issues/american-sign-language/community-and-culture-faq>

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Louis J. Schwarz', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Louis J. Schwarz